



RETRIEVER REVIEW

Issue 6—March 2009

March Meeting

March 21st, 2009—7:30 p.m.

Meridian Park Hospital
CHEC Building
No Board Meeting

~ Club Officers ~

President: Barb Gilchrist
Vice President: Judy Chambers
Secretary: Deb Neal
Treasurer: Greg Huntzinger

Board Members

Ellen Sparks
Cindy Freeman
Nikki Berthold-Illias
Dan Neal

Committee Chairs

Susan Huntzinger—2009 Specialty
Nikki Berthold-Illias
2009 Hunt Test

Litter Referrals

Susan & Greg Huntzinger
(503) 655-9405

Membership

Kathy Fagundes
(503) 698-7555

Web Site

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Happy St. Patrick's
Day!

President's Message:

Dear Club Members...

There is a big battle being waged against your rights as a multiple Dog owner and breeder. Please go to the AKC website of [www.http://www.akc.org/news/index.cfm?article_id=3752](http://www.akc.org/news/index.cfm?article_id=3752) and subscribe to the Legislative Alerts (look to the right side) as these Alerts will keep you informed to the Numerous Regulations being proposed on Dog Breeders and Owners.

This is an attempt to write laws on the books with more "teeth" when prosecuting Puppy Mills. I know that all of us are against Puppy Mills but the new laws are too broad and will no doubt take away our rights as Hobby Breeding Kennels who for the most part do a good job in trying to breed a better dog in an ethical manner. This is no accident as we all know there are Lobbied Powerful Groups who would take away everything to do with our Sport.

Please do not sit back with apathy but rather get informed/educated and then write YOUR Legislature or better yet CALL....let your voice be heard!

Sincerely,

Your President
Barbara



Proposed New Member -
John & Debbie Mueller
Molalla, Oregon
xandu@molalla.net

A message worth repeating....

Hi all,

I know it seems like July is a long ways away, but with the way time flies, our 2009 specialty will be here before we know it. Obedience and Rally will be the back to back trials on Friday and Saturday.

I am the Obedience and Rally chair this year and I would like to begin by asking for volunteers for ring stewards. If we get enough people to help out, we should be able to rotate enough so that those who want to show their dogs in other venues will have that opportunity.

If you are stewarding in obedience, you cannot show under that judge. However, if you are stewarding in Rally, you may also compete under that judge. Obedience requires 2 stewards and Rally should have a minimum of 3 but 4 is better (Table steward, Ring steward, Honor steward and Gate steward).

If you have never done this before and would like to learn more about it, the B Match in May is a great place to get your feet wet.

Please contact me at QRLabs@yahoo.com if you are interested or would like more information.

Thank you,
Cindy Freeman

**Conformation Stewards
are needed as well.....**

Kathy Fagundes needs ring stewards for the Conformation Ring for the RCLRC Specialty in July. She needs one for each day—Thursday, Friday & Saturday. If you can help, call her at 503-407-1444



**Member Spotlight—
Rebecca Lambert—Ferwerda**

I am quite new to canine ownership and my labrador retriever has only been a part of my life for only four short years so far. I reside in Brightwood Oregon (base of Mt. Hood) with my husband and teenage daughter who is a senior this year in high school. I moved to Oregon in 2004 from Vancouver BC with my daughter after my marriage to Martin who resided here in Oregon.

I joined the RCLRC only last year so I am quite new to the club. I became interested in obedience and rally after I got my purebred labrador retriever AKC registered name Sandy River Nuphar currently CD, RE, CGC. I've raised him from a pup at the young age of 7weeks. I did not get him from a 'breeder' and just found him in the classifieds, but knowing what I've learned over time my next labrador will be from a 'reputable breeder'. Don't be too surprised if I ask some of you about your lines in search of a possible performance lab for in the future. Need less to say, I obviously knew nothing of backyard breeders, or puppymills,etc I was truly ignorant to the canine world. However, I would not trade him for anything....he's my pride and joy. I always dreamt of having my own dog one day, so when the time came I informed my husband that I would like to get a lab. He drove me to a dairy farm in Hebo Oregon, where I could have my pick of 7male puppies that were still available from a litter of 11 boys! The date was Friday October 1st 2004 to be exact. I finally got my very own labrador at age 34 my dream came true! One of the happiest and most memorable days of my life. Martin already had a lab/mix named Moxie who introduced us to one another a few years prior....I owe my marriage and a lot to the old girl bless her heart....she passed this last July 15th 2008 at the age of 12...I sure do miss her. Before her passing we were a three dog family, we added another canine almost a year after we got Sandy....a miniature pinscher for my daughter.

Anyhow, Sandy is a funny looking non-conformation standard yellow labrador kind of fox red in color with an undershot jawaw...perhaps you've seen him in the obe-

jaw...perhaps you've seen him in the obedience ring. I had him neutered promptly at the age of six months as I wanted to be a responsible dog owner. I named him after the Sandy River, as that was the river my husband and I were standing on the banks of when we decided to get married. The "Nuphar" part is actually the scientific genus name of a water lily commonly known as a "Spatter Dock" a natural pond lily often found in healthy ecosystems.

I enrolled Sandy in puppy classes at three months of age and he always did well in his classes. I read many puppy raising books and took him to many places to socialize him as I wanted to do right by him. I was a worried dog mom I got to know my vet really well as I called them when he got hiccups or would shake in his sleep when he was dreaming all the things an over anxious new dog owner can worry about. I've since learned a lot and have mellowed out some. If I had gotten him from a breeder I suppose the breeder's phone would've been ringing off the hook with all my anxious questions.

My daughter became involved in his training and decided to train him for Rally and after her first Rally entry at a dog show she became hooked. She took Sandy all the way to his RE and CGC. She since then has also taken her Miniature Pinscher to an RA and CGC. She has also competed with Sandy in Novice Obedience. I am currently training Sandy for his CDX and have two more legs to go. I am also hooked on the sport of canine obedience and spend my time training with Sandy and am looking forward to getting even more involved in the sport via volunteering. I am also interested in tracking with him and have just started him in that area, however I don't know if we'll ever get experienced enough to try for a TD. I just enjoy the very special bond that Sandy and I share....the titles and ribbons are nice to achieve together but the journey getting there is what I will always cherish. This is in part why I joined the Labrador Retriever Club as I love the breed and want to encourage others to try out the many canine companion sports that AKC and UKC have to offer, along with educating the public about responsible dog ownership.

Sandy also plays a big role in our family life as a companion. It was important for me to have a water dog because Martin and I are avid canoeists and I needed a dog that would be able to fit in our 18ft Hiawatha wood and canvass canoe. Sandy gets to go on many canoeing adventures and adores the water!!! A perfect match! He has also helped Krystal through the up's and down's of being a teenager.

I am currently employed as a kennel keeper at a local boarding kennel, so my life does really revolve around canines. I enjoy my job immensely and the best part of it is being with the dogs and learning from them. However, I do have a technical diploma from British Columbia in the field of Fish, Wildlife, and Recreation Management. I spent three seasons working as a back country ranger for the Provincial Government back in the late 1990's...the best career I ever had! I got to spend 10days in the back country at a wilderness lake and then 4days off.

Anyhow, I hope to see some of you near the obedience ring and feel free to introduce yourself...I'm sure Sandy wouldn't mind a pat or two. Happy Training and Showing!!!

~Rebecca Ferwerda and Sandy River Nuphar CD, RE, CGC = my Novice A Dog.

Brags !!!

Jannifer Hanjy reports they are still floating over....Blackthorn's High Felutin "Flute" went WB and BOS at the San Diego Labrador Retriever Club Specialty on February 15th to FINISH her American Championship, under breeder judges Jean-Louis Blais & Janet Farnillette. We are on top of the world! Flute is owned and loved by four great friends Jennifer Hajny, Mary Jane Sarbaugh, Jill Mahoney, & Barbara Gilchrist. She is bred by Robert and Barb Gilchrist. Yeah Flute!

***Big Congratulations from all
of the RCLRC members to
Aaron Bradshaw who was the
1 AKC Junior Handler for
January 2009 !***

Laparoscopic Spays are Not Just for Specialists



By Lori Luechtefeld

Endoscopy has experienced significant growth among both specialty and general veterinary practitioners in recent years, and perhaps the greatest area of growth is in laparoscopic-assisted spays. As with many relatively new surgical procedures, the technique and its equipment have evolved rapidly to meet the needs of veterinarians.

Jim Houchens, DVM, of Arvada Veterinary Hospital in Northern Denver, says that adding laparoscopic-assisted spays to his practice's arsenal of offerings has helped him to attract new clients.

"For established veterinarians like me, the procedure is a terrific cure for burnout," he says. "For younger veterinarians, it's a way of whetting their appetite for the skills and technology that will be coming down the pipeline." The clinical advantages of the laparoscopic-assisted ovariohysterectomy technique were established in a study published in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Assn.* in 2005.

For the study, Chad Devitt, DVM, MS, Dipl. ACVS, of the Veterinary Referral Center of Colorado, worked with Ray Cox, DVM, of the Deer Creek Animal Hospital, and Jim Hailey, DVM, of the Redstone Animal Hospital in Littleton, Colo., to compare traditional OHE with a laparoscopic-assisted OHE using two portals.

The study found that dogs spayed using the laparoscopic-assisted OHE technique experienced less pain and surgical stress than those spayed in a traditional open procedure.

Since the study, the veterinarians, working in partnership with BioVision Technologies in Golden, Colo., have refined the procedure to use only one portal.

Evolving Procedure

Jeff Mayo, DVM, owner of Mayo Veterinary Services in Mountlake Terrace, Wash., operates a mobile practice that provides relief work, in-house surgical training and surgical practice. He first starting performing laparo-

scopic-assisted spays in 2004.

"At that time, about 25 percent of my clients were accepting of the procedure as a better and less-painful method of sterilization for their female pets," he says.

"In the beginning, I was performing one-, two- and three-port approaches using various electrocautery devices or extracorporeal knot tying," Dr. Mayo adds. "As I advanced in my skill, I began using various devices I can attach to my radiowave radiosurgery Ellman unit. My currently preferred method is a one- or two-port procedure."

Randy Hutchison, DVM, of Animal Clinic Northview in North Ridgeville, Ohio, has been performing laparoscopic-assisted spays for nearly three years, the bulk of which are ovariectomies. He uses a two-port technique. "I think a lot of the instrumentation is still geared toward multiport techniques," he says. "But as a lot of the instrumentation evolves, I do think the single port will be the way to go in the future. Each time you can reduce the number and length of incisions, the better for the patient."

Jeff Latimer, DVM, owner of Princess Animal Hospital in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, says that veterinarians owe it to themselves and their patients to perform laparoscopic-assisted spays in the fastest and easiest way possible. He uses a one-port technique on the midline of the patient.

"When performing biopsies and exploring organs, you will need to use a multiport technique," he says. "If you buy a single-port system, it will come with the necessary items that you will need to place one or two more ports as needed.

"If you buy a system that is only able to be used with multiple ports, you will likely choose not to perform spays, as the benefits are lost if you have three small incisions instead of one," he adds.

Veterinarians who choose the single-port approach must ensure that the instruments they purchase are long enough to go through the scope, Dr. Latimer notes.

Benefits for General Practitioners

Mayo, who has taught the laparoscopic-assisted spay technique to veterinarians across the United States and Canada, says that certain large metropolitan areas of the country seem to embrace the procedure more than others.

"It has been slow to catch on, and I think practitioners are finally starting to see the value in the procedure itself, as well as the other procedures and income that rigid endoscopy can bring to their practices," he says.

Latimer says that his practice now performs 75 percent of its canine spays using laparoscopy. The technique is performed using BioVision's one-port system, through a

10-millimeter operating scope.

However, the laparoscopic-assisted spay technique wasn't what prompted his practice's purchase of the system. "Using one port, we can get diagnostic-sized biopsies of liver, spleen, kidneys, pancreas and intestines while being much less invasive than when performing a traditional exploratory," Latimer says. "It was being able to provide a new option for the pet owners in Kingston that drove the decision to purchase the equipment. Using the equipment for spays is just an added bonus."

Similarly, Dr. Houchens says that his client base has been overwhelmingly receptive to the laparoscopic-assisted spay technique, which he has been performing for nearly two years.

Interest in the procedure skyrocketed after his practice and its use of the technique were featured in a local newspaper. This past August, his practice ceased to offer the traditional open spay as an option.

Craig Stoenner, DVM, of All Pet Complex Veterinary Hospital in Boise, Idaho, says his practice has also moved to exclusively offering the laparoscopic-assisted spay technique. "As a group, our veterinarians decided that since this is the best way to do the procedure, it's the only way we should do it," he says.

"As a profession, veterinary medicine continues to evolve," he adds. "Twenty years ago, we didn't supplement patients with fluids, and we didn't perform preliminary blood work. Now practitioners do these things because we've realized they represent better medicine. And that's the way we feel about the laparoscopic-assisted spay."

Training Requirements

Mayo says it is important to learn other procedures before tackling the laparoscopic-assisted spay. This enables practitioners to become comfortable with the equipment, he says.

"Once the practitioner is comfortable with performing simple procedures—such as biopsies in a two-dimensional live image—then I would move on to the laparoscopic-assisted spay techniques," Mayo says. "That being said, I have met a fair number of doctors who can pick up the procedure fairly easily in a staged teaching environment in a single day."

Dr. Devitt, developer of the laparoscopic-assisted OHE technique, says that a single training course is enough to get a general practitioner started with the laparoscopic-assisted spay technique.

"However, it's worthwhile to consider taking two or more courses," he says. "It greatly increases a practitioner's comfort level in performing the procedure. Latimer concurs.

He says he purchased his equipment last fall and spent a day of formal training on the single-port laparoscopic-assisted spay technique. "I returned from this and spayed eight to 10 dogs for the humane society," he says.

"After this, I began spaying our own clients' dogs, without charging more for the service. I then did a three-day advanced lab at Colorado State University," Latimer says. "After this lab, I felt comfortable charging for this service and giving the clients the choice."

Paul Young, DVM, of the Sunset Boulevard Animal Clinic in Houston, Texas, began working with the single-port laparoscopic-assisted spay technique toward the end of 2007. He did about 10 procedures in the first month after training.

"The training was at a good pace, and not too advanced for the first-time user of the equipment," he says. "To anyone who is interested, I would highly recommend taking another veterinarian from the practice—or their primary surgical technician—to the training sessions. Having an extra set of ears and eyes for this kind of work is invaluable."

Healthy ROI

Regardless of the clinical benefits of laparoscopic-assisted spays, many general practices have been slow to adopt the technique, with major reasons for hesitation being the initial start-up costs and training requirements.

Latimer says the main drawback to the technique is that practitioners must relearn how to spay a patient. "I have been doing this for six weeks, at an average of a surgery a week, and I am down to 50 minutes," he says. "The good news is that the big fat Labrador is just as fast as the small dog.

"There is also a learning curve for your staff to learn how to prepare the instruments," he adds. Mayo says that seasoned laparoscopists can comfortably spay a dog in 20 minutes. Moreover, he says, the return on investment is healthy.

"It is difficult to charge enough for spays to support the costs of the equipment," he notes. "If a practitioner is considering obtaining rigid endoscopic equipment, I recommend learning not only the spay, but also the cryptorchid neuter, organ biopsies, gastropexies, rhinoscopy and cystoscopy."

Dr. Stoenner says that a practice does not need to be large to benefit from adding the laparoscopic-assisted spay to its offerings.

"The single-port system in particular is really designed for the general practitioner," he says. "The equipment very easily pays for itself. (Reprinted from Veterinary Practice News)

RCLRC Feb Minutes.....

RCLRC Minutes, February 27, 2009

Meeting called to order by Barbara Gilchrist at 7:35pm.

In Attendance: Bob Fagundes, Kathy Fagundes, Debbie Neal, Danny Neal, Ellen Sparks, Julie Galbraith, Judy Chambers, Cindy Freeman, and Barb Gilchrist. Motion made and passed to approve January Minutes as published in the Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report has been emailed to the membership.

President's Report: Barb Gilchrist has received an email from the AKC concerning a program on "Nightline". The AKC says that the report is not balanced. AKC has declined to make a comment and asks that members also decline comments.

Secretary's Report: The Willamette Valley English Setter Fanciers is holding a Canine Health Clearances Seminar on Saturday, March 14, 2009. Contact Joan Savage 503-647-2008.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Judy Chambers moved to accept as members John and Gina Pfister, Jill Mahoney, Jennifer Hajny and Mary Jane Sarbough. Motion seconded and approved. Kathy Fagundes reported that she has lots of the tri fold Club pamphlets.

Specialty: Kathy Fagundes reported there is a need for Ring Stewards. Cindy Freeman is getting Obedience Ring Stewards.

B-Match: Julie Galbraith reported that she has the judges for the B-Match and Frenchman's Bar Park has been reserved. For the 2010 Specialty, Julie said that the Shearers' have accepted the judging assignment. There was a question how many days of obedience would be held. It was clarified that we need obedience judges for 2 days.

Working Certificate: Dan Neal reported that a Working Certificate at the Waterfowl Festival in August will depend on securing a place to run it. In addition, volunteers will need to be found.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Judy Chambers reported that as Vice President, she is responsible for arranging speakers for Club meetings. She asked to have abbreviated or no meeting, so the speaker does not have to wait around. Discussion followed.

Judy Chambers reported on proposed House Bill 2470 in

Oregon. This bill is brought by Peta and the Humane Society. The Bill restricts the number of dogs one is allowed to own to 25. A dealer is a person with ten or more intact dogs and 3 or more litters a year. Mandates record keeping, plus several more stipulations for selling puppies. Judy Chambers urges everyone to contact Representatives on the Consumer Protection Committee. There is a form letter on the AKC website for contacting legislators. Barbra Gilchrist reported that Washington State has Senate Bill 5651 which places a number of regulations on dog breeders and owners.

Meeting Adjourned.

Rose City Labrador Retriever Club of Portland 2009 Specialty Judges

Brown Bag:

Heidi Herman	Sweepstakes
Marion Lyons	Conformation

2 Day Specialty:

Laura Steward	Sweepstakes
Laura Dederling	Conformation

Obedience & Rally:

Friday July 10th
Pam Weaver Obedience & Juniors

Saturday July 11th
Theresa Temple Obedience

Show Dates are July 9—11th, 2009
Champoeg State Park

Call for park reservations
Beginning October 9th, 2009



